



Electricity Shopping

When considering options for your electricity supply, you should know the following facts:

1. **Over the winter months, we expect wholesale electricity market prices to go up substantially.**
2. You get your electricity supply either through the standard offer or with a competitive supplier, who buy power in the wholesale markets on behalf of individual customers. If you are not sure who your supplier is, check page 3 of your CMP bill.
3. The standard offer is currently 7.56 ¢/kWh for residential and small business customers. This price will change on March 1, 2015. The new price will be announced when the Public Utilities Commission completes the auction, usually towards the end of January. **While this price is not yet known, it will almost certainly increase to reflect higher wholesale market prices.**
4. A list of competitive electricity supplier prices, updated monthly, is available at the Office of the Public Advocate's website: <http://www.maine.gov/meopa/utilities/electric/supply.html>

What to do now:

Currently with a CEP

- If your price is competitive with the standard offer rate, there is no need to switch to another plan.
- If your rate is higher than the standard offer but your contract has not yet expired, it still may not make sense to switch if your contract with your competitive supplier includes an early termination fee that you will pay if you leave before the term is up.
- If you have a contract that has ended or is ending soon, you are likely to save money by switching back to the standard offer. The easiest way to switch to the standard offer is to call CMP at 800-750-4000. They are required to process these requests within two business days.

Currently on the standard offer

- Your best bet is to remain there and begin checking competitive offerings after the New Year.
- The current standard offer rate is almost certain to be lower than what competitive suppliers are offering right now, and switching avoids the risk that you may end up on a variable rate plan (some suppliers move customers to variable rate plans when their contracts expire).
- Once the new standard offer rate is announced, suppliers will be able to focus on competing against that rate and may offer lower prices. **You may leave the standard offer rate at any time to accept a contract with a competitive supplier.**

*If you stay on the standard offer, there is a risk that you may pass up a long term contract offer available now that turns out to be at a lower price than next year's standard offer, or future competitive offers. At this time, we believe that is unlikely, but of course, it may occur.